

NEWS IN *brief*

Police, BGB get US training

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United States government has provided training to Bangladeshi police, border guards, fire fighters, Ansar and VDP on Critical Incident Management (CIM).
The training that was concluded on July 26, offered by the Department of State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security and taught by instructors from US, took place at the Police Staff College Bangladesh in the capital, said a press release yesterday.
Officers from Ministry of Home Affairs, police, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), Fire Service and Civil Defence Directorate, and Bangladesh Ansar and VDP participated in the training.
Participants applied knowledge during training to assess current policies, plans, and procedures as a

Next Banskhali carnage case hearing Aug 22

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday fixed August 22 for the next hearing of Banskhali carnage case.
The court of 3rd Additional District and Session Judge (acting) Hosne Ara passed the order after completion of the cross examination of Bimal Kanti Shil, the complainant, for the third day yesterday.
Advocate Abul Kalam Shamsuddin, lawyer for an accused, Nurul Islam, cross examined Bimal.
On November 18, 2003, a group of people set fire to the house of Tejendra Shil at Shilpara in

6 held over Ratan murder in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Six people have been arrested in connection with the killing of a businessman after abducting him from Chittagong on June 20.
The arrested--Mohammad Jamil, Monir Hossain, Idris Mia, Rabiul Alam, Yusuf Hossain, and Golam Mostafa admitted the killing, said police.
Detective Branch (DB) of police conducted a three-day drive in Dhaka, Kishoreganj and Narayanganj till Wednesday, and nabbed them, said Chittagong Metropolitan Police Commissioner Md Shafiqul Islam at a press conference yesterday.
The arrestees strangled Ratan Kumar Roy, owner of Sonali Hatchery in Raozan upazila of Chittagong, over a land dispute, and dumped the

8 BCL activists arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight Bangladesh Chhatra League activists were arrested from the capital's Fakirerpool area yesterday in connection with an attempted murder case filed with Kotwali Police Station in Sylhet.
The arrestees are Shahinur Islam, Kohinoor Islam, Ziaul Haque, Sujel Ahmed, Sohel Ahmed, Md Jewel, Md Morsalin Rahman, and Mostafa Mia from Gausia Hotel, said police.
The BCL men were involved in a clash between two BCL factions in Sylhet city on July 26 in which at least 10 people were injured, police said, adding that the murder attempt case was filed in this connection.
Police said the BCL activists came to Dhaka to



Dumping of garbage and waste under the bailey and concrete bridges connecting Lalbagh and Kamrangirchar in the capital is significantly contributing to the pollution of the Buringanga river. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Girl found dead in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a three-year-old unidentified girl from a house at Golapbagh in Jatrabari area of the capital yesterday morning.
Jatrabari police said local people informed them that the body of the girl remained in the veranda on the ground floor of the three-store building around 11:00am.
Police did not find any injury marks in the body which fell down beside a mattress.
The second floor tenants left the mattress before leaving the house yesterday. However, the girl did not belong to the family, said police, quoting the residents of the house.
The body was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.
The autopsy will be conducted today, morgue sources said.

Bangladesh to lease Sudanese farmland

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with South Sudan to take a 10-year lease on Sudanese farmland to grow crops aimed at ensuring food security of both the countries.
Bangladesh and Sudan will jointly produce rice, lentil, oil, cotton and other crops on the leased land and share the produces between the two countries, said a press release.
The MoU was signed between Bangladesh's agriculture ministry and the newly independent Sudan's agriculture and forest ministry when a Bangladeshi delegation visited the African country.
Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharruf Hossain led the delegation to the east-central African country on July 28 and they are scheduled to return home on August 5.

The move of leasing land abroad is one of Bangladesh's various efforts to improve food production in the wake of rising population and decreasing farmland at home.
Under the MoU signed, Bangladesh and Sudan will exchange training, technologies and expertise for increased productivity. On completion of ten years, it will extend for ten more years automatically, the release said.
The delegation also held talks with South Sudan's president, ministers and officials concerned.
Earlier, two Bangladeshi companies have leased 40,000 hectares of farmland in Uganda and Tanzania.
Another Bangladesh delegation earlier visited various African countries to take farmland but no concrete outcome is known of their visit.

HUMAYUN AHMED'S DEATH Refrain from sensationalism

Eminent citizens urge media; defamation case filed against Ctg lawyer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seventeen eminent citizens yesterday urged the media to refrain from publishing sensational news on late litterateur Humayun Ahmed and his wife Meher Afroz Shaon.
Some recent reports were unexpected, repulsive and condemnable, hurting the litterateur's family, well-wishers and the country's intellectuals, they said in a written statement.
The citizens are Prof Anisuzzaman, Syed Shamsul Haque, Ramendu Majumder, Aly Zaker, Ferdousi Majumdar, Sara Zaker, Assaduzzaman Noor, Syed Monjurul Islam, Nasiruddin Yusuff, Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, Jewel Aich, Imdadul Haque Milon, Anisul Haq, Ferdous Ara, Faridur Reza Sagor, Golam Quddus and Ferdousi Priyabhashini.
Meanwhile, a defamation case was filed

yesterday against a lawyer, Nazrul Islam, who had sued Shaon and Mazharul Islam, publisher of Anya Prokash Publication Ltd, on Wednesday alleging that they "killed" Humayun to misappropriate his cash and property. The allegation against Shaon and Mazharul was based on some newspaper reports, Nazrul said.
Nurjahan Akhter Nupur, an apprentice lawyer and one of Shaon's fans, filed yesterday's defamation case with Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka accusing Advocate Nazrul Islam and one of his close friends, Abdul Hye.
The complainant also appealed to issue arrest warrants against Nazrul and Hye.
The complaint stated that Nazrul filed the case only to tarnish the image of Humayun Ahmed's family members, on the basis of vague allegations.

Non-party interim govt will solve problems: Moudud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader Moudud Ahmed yesterday said all problems would be solved and peace would be established if the prime minister accepted their demand of non-party interim government for holding the next general elections.
The premier has changed her stand a little, as she is now telling of holding the elections under "an interim government" instead of political government, he said.
Moudud made the remarks at a meeting organised by pro-BNP lawyers' body, Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum, at Supreme Court Bar Association in protest of recent indictment of 46 opposition leaders in an arson case.
He said the indictment was unlawful, as the judge passed the order without holding any hearing.



A joint mobile court of Chittagong City Corporation and BSTI inspects production of vermicelli at a factory in Chaktai area of the port city yesterday. The mobile court fined four vermicelli factories in the area and shut them down on charge of producing food in unhygienic environments.

PHOTO: STAR

Khoka gets bail in bus arson case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted permanent bail to former Dhaka City Corporation mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka in an arson case.
The case was filed against 46 BNP leaders including Khoka for torching a bus near the Prime Minister's Office during hartal on April 29.
The granted the bail yesterday after Khoka surrendered before the court.
Earlier on Tuesday, the court issued an arrest warrant against him after cancelling bail as he was absent during the charge framing hearing in the case.
The court set August 7 for the beginning the case's trial.
The court also framed charges against others BNP leaders in the case.

PROPOSED TREE RESERVATION LAW JS body recommends amendments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday recommended some changes in the proposed Tree Reservation Law, which include increasing the amount of penalty for violations and delegating upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) at upazila level and executive officer at municipality level instead of forest officials to monitor enforcement of the act.
The term of imprisonment was six months and amount of fine was Tk 50,000 for violation of the law, said Abdul Momin Talukder, chief of the parliamentary committee on the environment and forest. The committee raised the fine to Tk 1 lakh, he headed.
"The committee today [yesterday] finalised the proposed bill on tree reservation with these changes," Talukder, also a BNP lawmaker, told The Daily Star after a meeting at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.
Earlier, the committee formed a four-member sub-committee to examine the bill.
The main committee however sent back the Forest (Amendment) Bill 2012 to the sub-committee for further examination and for taking views of different organisations and experts working on forest and environment on the bill, Talukder said.

RAPE OF SPEECH IMPAIRED GIRL HC summons Louhojang OC for not recording case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned on August 12 the officer-in-charge of Munshiganj's Louhojang Police Station for not recording a case over the rape of a girl with speech impairment.
In response to a petition, the court also summoned Kanakar Union Awami League (AL) president, Monir Hossain, that day for allegedly pressing police not to accept the case. The OC was also directed to produce the victim the same day.
Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh filed the petition yesterday as public interest litigation on the basis of a Janakantha report published on Wednesday.
The report said one, Shipan Bepari of Singherhati village of Kanakar union under Louhojang upazila, recently abducted the

girl from a road, confined and raped her for two days in a house and left her on the road.
Louhojang police rescued the girl on July 30, held talks with local AL leaders led by Monir and sent her to her village in Bhola on July 31, without carrying out any medical test, to suppress the incident, said the report.
The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Farid Ahmed also ordered Munshiganj's superintendent of police (SP) and the OC to carry out the medical test by a doctor.
The court also issued a rule upon Munshiganj's deputy commissioner, upazila nirbahi officer, the SP and the OC to explain in two weeks why police failure to accept the case should not be declared illegal and why they should not be directed to record the case.

DHAKA TODAY

Human chain
Bangladesh Garment Workers Unity Council will form a human chain; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion
Agriculturist Forum of Bangladesh will organise a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 5:30pm.

Rally
Communist League of Bangladesh will hold a rally; Venue: before Bangladesh National Museum; Time: 4:00pm.

Rally
Garments Sramik Oikya Forum will organise a rally; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion
National Democratic Party will hold a discussion; Venue: Hotel Ornate, Bijoynagar; Time: 5:00pm.

Discussion
Jatiya Shahitya Prokash will organise a discussion; Venue: Public Library; Time:

WEATHER TODAY

Heavy rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.
Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over the country, Met Office said.
Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.
The sun sets in the capital today at 6:40pm and rises tomorrow at 5:29am.
The country's highest temperature 33.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and the lowest 24.9 degrees at Feni and Teknaf.
Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.2	26.5	80	75
Chittagong	31.0	25.0	86	87
Rajshahi	33.6	27.1	88	74
Rangpur	31.8	26.7	88	75
Khulna	33.0	26.8	94	84
Barisal	31.6	26.5	86	84